



The Halifax Amateur Radio Club

REFLECTOR

PO BOX 663
HALIFAX NS
B3J 2T3

March 2005 Volume 66 Number 3

club web site is www.halifax-arc.org



Happy Easter



HARC Club Station phone number - 490-6421

See the HARC Web site at: <http://www.halifax-arc.org>

Our executive and committees.

Position Name & Call Sign	Phone #	E-Mail
President - Bill Elliott, VE1MR	865-8567	ve1mr@rac.ca
First V.P. - Fraser MacDougall VE1WO	865-4198	ve1wo@rac.ca
2nd V.P. - Darryll Perrin, VE1HUP	826-1439	ve1hup@rac.ca
Secretary - Howard Dickson, VE1DHD	823-2024	dhcdickson@hfx.eastlink.ca
Treasurer - John Goodwin, VE1CDD	865-5731	ve1cdd@rac.ca
Member at Large, Tom Caithness, VE1GTC	477-7081	tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca
Club Station Mgr. - Pat Kavanaugh, VE1PHK		ve1phk@rac.ca
Past President - Dick Grantham, VE1AI	434-8046	ve1ai@rac.ca

Committees/Offices/Prime Contacts

Public Relations: Wayne Harasimovitch, VE1WPH	832-3660	ve1wph@rac.ca
IPARN and Brit Fader Memorial QSL Bureau Manager - Bob Burns, VE1VCK	865-9414	ve1vck@rac.ca
EMO Coordinator - Dave George, VE1AJP	466-8723	dgeorge@is.dal.ca
Reflector editor - Lynn Bowser, VE1ENT	865-8567	ve1ent@rac.ca
Reflector Dist. - Tom Caithness, VE1GTC	477-7081	tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca
Membership - Tom Caithness, VE1GTC	477-7081	tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca
Web page - Rob Ewert, VE1KS,	826-1705	ewertr@hfx.eastlink.ca
Basic ham course - Howard Dickson, VE1DHD	823-2024	dhcdickson@hfx.eastlink.ca
EMO Trailer Assembly coord - David Musgrave, VE1EDA	435-4333	ve1eda@rac.ca
Flea market 2004 Chair'man - Ed Grace, VE1EGG	865-8295	ve1egga@rac.ca
Field Day coordinator - NEEDED		
RAC Asst Director - Wayne Marchand, VE1WJM,	860-1580	ve1wjm@rac.ca
NSARA Director - Joe MacPherson, VE1CH	852-1295	jmp@hfx.eastlink.ca
Frequency coordinator for Nova Scotia - Bev Reynolds, VE1TL		

Take-15 Net Controllers

NOTE: There have been some changes. This will be the rotation. If you cannot take the net on your particular evening get in touch with one of the others and trade places with them. If I have left any one off the list, or you want to join, please let Bill Elliott, VE1MR, know.



Mar. 13	Chris	VA1CDB
Mar. 20	Pierre	VE1PTR
Mar. 27	Tom	VE1GTC
April 3	Herb	VE1HX
April 10	Win	VE1WIN
April 17	Peter	VE1PJW
April 24	Doug	VE1LDL

Maritime Swap Shop changed

Due to a work conflict with the Controller, VE1PJS the Net (Swap Shop) will now take place on Monday Evenings at 7:30 PM (local time) on the frequency of 3750 MHZ following The Maritime Net. The controller is still Peter, VE1PJS, and all information will still pass through him.

Halifax Information Radio 97.9 FM in the event of emergency becomes a communications arm of EMO.

RAC's web site is www.rac.ca

The **General Monthly Meeting** of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club will take place Wednesday, March 16, 2005 at 1930 hours (7:30 PM), at the former Bloomfield School building (corner of Almon and Agricola streets). The meeting will be held in the Multi-Purpose Room. Our speaker for this evening will be Larry Arthur from NS Power speaking on high voltage safety. Guests are welcome.

GENERAL INFORMATION



TAKE-15 NET: Sunday evenings at 8:30 PM on VE1PSR/VHF

CLUB REPEATERS:

VE1PSR/VHF - 147.270 MHz +
VE1PSR/UHF - 444.350 MHz +
VE1PSR/6M - 53.550 MHz +
access tone 151.4 Hz
VE1HNS - 146.940 MHz -

PACKET:

VE1NSD 145.050 MHz LAN NODE
VE1BBS - Local packet BBS
accessible through the LAN

FOR SALE

Open to club members, there is a surplus transceiver for sale. This is a Yaesu FT-101, cleaned, tested and in good working condition. Asking \$150 or reasonable offer. Offers accepted until Mar. 16th. Contact Fraser MacDougall, VE1WO, at 865-4198 or ve1wo@rac.ca

Deadline for submissions to the April Reflector is Saturday, April 9, 2005

Events for Your Calendar

March 13 – NSARA CONTEST

The contest will run for EIGHT hours in two four hour sessions.

Morning Session - 8:00AM local time until 12:00PM local time.

Afternoon Session – 2:00PM local time until 6:00PM local time.

All contacts for contest credit will take place on the 80 meter band PHONE and CW sections.

Exercise "**Sandpiper**" will be Saturday, **April 9** – come out and play.

June 11 will be the date of the 2005 DownEast Flea Market

Field Day 2005 last weekend in June

July – Museum Ships Special Event

July - IOTA – Islands on the Air

August 13&14, '05 – MS Bike Tour

The 6th annual Search & Rescue Competition will take place **Sept. 9 to 11, 2005**. Club co-ordinators for a special event station are Dick, VE1AI, and Scott, VE1QD.

Where to get Callbooks

The Maritime Provinces Callbook 2004 is available at Cohoon's Appliance Service at 109 Ilsley Ave. in Burnside Industrial park during their open hours of

8:30 AM to 5:00 PM Monday through Friday and

Saturdays 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

If you hear someone from out of town asking where they can get a callbook then this is probably their best bet on short notice.

If you want to use the **Club Station** for an activity please reserve your date & time with Station Manager Pat Kavanaugh, VE1PHK
E-mail ve1phk@rac.ca

Check in – An **EMO NET** is conducted by David, VE1EDA, each Sunday evening at 1930 local (7:30 PM) on VE1PSR repeater (147.27).

DOWNEAST FLEA MARKET

SATURDAY JUNE 11, '05

Where:

The Halifax Forum Complex corner of Young and Windsor St., Halifax

Doors open: for sellers at 0630
for buyers at 0900

The tables are free;

Entry fee is \$3.00 per person

Reserve tables by contacting

David Nimmo at ve1nn@rac.ca

Talk in frequency: VE1PSR
(147.270+)

Ham Social Friday night June 10, 2005 at 1900 at The Jolly Mug for info contact ve1pq@rac.ca

Breakfast get together at 0730 June 11/05 at the Steak and Stein, 6061 Young St, Halifax

There will be a talk by Wayne, VE1WPH, on the ISS set up

Hope to see you there---
73's-----Ed, VE1EGG

Are you up to date with your HARC membership dues?

Yearly rates are as follows:

Full = \$25 Associate = \$15

Family (2 members) = \$35 + \$10 for each additional family member at same address (only 1 newsletter)

URL for the KCARC Web site is
<http://www.kcarc.ns.ca>

A new stock of **Anderson Powerpole connectors** is now on hand.. If you have not already converted all your gear to Powerpole connectors you should consider doing so. Place orders with Tom Caithness, VE1GTC by E-mail at: tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca

Price = \$1.25 each (for a red and black connector for one complete end). To make a complete mating pair will require 2 connectors.

APRS Tip: Using One less Radio...

Many people travel with a mobile and a handheld radio in their car. If you set up your APRS Tracker to work with your handheld you can beacon during you trip and use the handheld when you get to your destination. When you get tired of disconnecting and reconnecting, then its time to buy another radio. VE1RGG

Puzzler – Do You Know?

You hear two signals coming in to your receiver. One registers S8 on the meter, the other 10 db over S9.

What is the difference in signal levels between the two stations in dB?

Answer on page 9

As well as indoor and outdoor exhibits and vendors, Dayton Hamvention 2005 will feature a full slate of forums and other activities. Early birds can save \$5 by getting their tickets online at the Hamvention Web site <<http://www.hamvention.org>>.

Check the ARRL National Convention at Dayton Hamvention Web page
<<http://www.arrl.org/announce/nc/2005/>> for information updates.

HARC's **Digital Communication Special Interest Group** aims to experiment with as many digital modes, software and hardware as possible. If you're interested, contact John, VE1CDD, at ve1cdd@rac.ca or by phone (865-5731)

The theme for World Amateur Radio Day 2005 is "**Radio Amateurs Expanding the World of Wireless Communications**". Celebrated each April 18, World Amateur Radio Day marks the anniversary of the founding of the IARU in 1925 and provides an opportunity to present a positive image of Amateur Radio to the general public.

Take every birthday with a grain of salt. This works much better if the salt accompanies a large margarita.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope you are coping with the last of winter (I hope it is the last). This month I want to bring something to the attention of newcomers. I have noticed that many people new to the hobby do not understand the importance of logging contacts. While you do not need to log repeater contacts since they can not be used for any awards or certificates right now, you should definitely log any simplex contacts. You may ask why should I since you are usually talking to the same group most of the time.

I will first give some background and then I will express some reasons why you should log most contacts. At one time it was mandatory to keep a log and be able to produce it if asked for by the authorities. This could prove when and what band you were transmitting on. Even brief test transmissions (checking SWR or output power) were usually logged. The station log was a complete record of the any activity at that station.

As equipment got better and there was less home built gear and less interference complaints, the government relaxed the regulation to keep a log. Of course by this time most Amateurs were in the habit of keeping a log so continued to do so.

The main reason to keep a log today is to be able to confirm when and on what band you talked with another station. What if the other station wants confirmation of the contact and sends you a QSL card. Do you remember talking to the station, what time and date, including the band and mode? Of course you can just copy the information from their QSL card and send one back confirming everything, but what if you can't remember ever talking with them and perhaps they have miscopied the call sign and you had never spoken with them!! You may have just confirmed a contact you never made.

All Amateurs should keep a log of non repeater contacts in case of receiving a QSL card for a contact. Normally required information is date and time in UTC (other names are GMT or Zulu), frequency or band, mode (FM, SSB, Digital, Satellite, etc.) and usually signal report as well, of course, as the call of the station worked. You may also want to keep a comment column for name, QTH and other such information. Standard log sheets will probably have a couple of small columns for QSL sent and received so you can keep track of what cards you have received and sent.

Many people today are using electronic logs on the computer, if you do this you should print out the information every so often in case of data loss. Another way to protect from data loss is to make a couple of backup copies of your log whenever you have made significant changes. You will notice I said a couple of copies, this is because backup media can become corrupted or unusable. You would become very upset if you lost your main log and found the backup was unusable.

Basic licensees may say why keep a log, I only use 2 meters. Perhaps you have made a contact with the ISS or an aeronautical mobile. You may want to QSL for those contacts. There are many other instances where either you or the other station may want to QSL. Remember, today with multiband handhelds and mobiles you may make simplex contacts which are rare such as during a tropospheric duct when you may work the Eastern US, New Brunswick, PEI, or Newfoundland. Perhaps your radio is capable of 6M then you may find some sporadic E or F2 propagation and work many thousands of miles. Perhaps you start working satellites, I assure that you will receive QSL cards. There are some other ways of confirming contacts such as EQSL and LOTW (Logbook of the World) but both require keeping a log.

Operating Awards and Certificates will require that you have a log of the

required contacts and often you must have QSL card confirmation of these contacts.

I hope the above will inspire you to keep a log even if it is only a simple paper log sheet. My own log has many duplicate contacts where I have talked with a local station many times on the same band and mode. The log is a record (should be permanent) of your operating activity.

I hope to see at this months meeting.
73 - Bill, VE1MR

Silent Key

Clarey Pelley, VE1AVP, Lakeview, died February 28, 2005, at home. Clarey was a Radio Amateur for over 40 years. He was 80 years old. On-line condolences may be made at www.atlanticfuneralhomes.com

EMO EXERCISE

Exercise "Sandpiper" will be Saturday, April 9, 2005. The purpose of the exercise will be to refresh the Amateur operators with passing of messages, to test the call out system, to test drive the Tel com plan. And MOST of all to have fun in doing so. We will be conducting the exercise ourselves and it will not be a scenario type, but sending messages composed by the operators, problem solving, and reporting any deficiencies found in the operation.

Tom Caithness, VE1GTC

NET CONTROLLERS

I have added two new net controllers and I would like to see at least two more if possible. It is an easy job and with an increasing number of net controllers you would only be doing the net a few times a year. This is an easy way to do something for the club.

Thank you for reading.

Bill Elliott, VE1MR

Phone - 865-8567

E-mail - ve1mr@rac.ca

DX n' HF

It was one year ago that Dick, VE1AI, Howard, VE1DHD, and myself launched this column in an effort to encourage greater HF activity by HARC members. We have focussed mainly on DXing, contesting and related operating practises. In addition to practical advice and information about operating, we encouraged participation in HF activities as a means for members to learn what HF is really all about. In this issue of **DX n' HF** I outline an ambitious agenda of interesting events from June to September. Please put these dates on your summer and early fall calendar - and get involved!

Scope for Operating. Many of you only have the basic level amateur radio license, but this does not prevent you from developing HF experience *under the appropriate conditions*.

Firstly, your license permits you to operate on 50 MHz and above. Six meters, the "magic band", offers interesting opportunities for new amateurs to enjoy regional HF communications and periodic DX openings. Even the 144 MHz, 220 MHz and 440 MHz VHF bands frequently produce propagation over many hundreds of miles on FM, SSB and CW. **Secondly**, when a higher-grade licensee supervises a basic license holder, that individual can operate with the same privileges. Thus when you take part in a club operating activity with an Advanced licensee present, you can work DX, participate in contests and fully enjoy HF rag chewing. Don't be shy! Join in!

Events. Below are seven events planned between June and the end of September that will help you to develop your HF capability and personality. Several are generally scheduled club events, but we include mention of them because they promote HF activity in important ways. More details will be available in the *Reflector* through the spring.

11 June **Down-East Flea Market** is an annual electronics bazaar that provides an excellent opportunity to pick up good buys on used

(or new) HF equipment. For those of you who have not yet upgraded your basic license, getting a piece of HF gear on which to listen is a vital step in advancing your amateur radio career. Remember, you are also able to get on 6 meters and above with your basic license and several HF transceivers also cover 6 meters, 2 meters and 70 cm on all modes.

25-27 June **Field Day** is one of the premier events in the ham radio calendar. It is an excellent opportunity to hone skills in setting up a station and operating under emergency conditions. This year the Club will be operating in the 2F class from the EMO building on Mt. Hope Drive in Dartmouth. This is an important event that insures that amateur radio in the HRM is fully prepared to assume its critical communications roles under emergency conditions. You will see more details about Field Day in this and subsequent issues of the *Reflector*.

1 July The **Canada Day Contest** is a one-day contest beginning at 0001 UTC that is sponsored by RAC and emphasizes working Canadian stations. This is a great contest to operate from home on HF and VHF frequencies. We will also try to set up one or more locations from which those with a Basic License can operate under supervision.

29 - 31 July **Islands on the Air (IOTA) Contest** is sponsored by the Radio Society of Great Britain and is an annual event that is becoming more and more popular. We are working on selecting an island location that is not too distant from the city, where other HARC members can join the **DX n' HF** "staff" in some mid-summer contesting. We will provide some on-the-spot instruction to ease inexperienced operators into the game.

13 August The second annual **DX Forum** will be held at my home on Moser Island in Glen Margaret. There will be a one-day program that includes morning presentations on interesting topics related to DX, followed by a BBQ at noon, and one or

two presentations in the afternoon. This will be a relaxed and highly social gathering, hopefully under sunny skies. It will last from 0930 - 1630 hrs. A social event for people coming in from outside the area will take place at my house the night before. James (TI2DU) is scheduled to be our keynote speaker. James, an active and enthusiastic ham, is also the CEO and Chief Engineer of Radio For Peace International, a fascinating short-wave broadcaster located in Costa Rica. More details will be in the *Reflector* as they become available.

19 - 21 Aug. During **International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend** the Club will operate once again from the Old Red School House at Peggy's Cove, just a short distance from the lighthouse. It will present another opportunity for many club members to operate on the HF bands, not in a contest, but rather as part of a relaxed worldwide event. Moreover, because there are so many visitors at Peggy's Cove at this time of the year, it will be helpful to have a number of Club members present to talk with them about both the event and ham radio. We will do the set-up on Friday and operate from Saturday at 0001 UTC to Sunday at 2359 UTC. This will be an excellent event for new HF operators to gain some experience.

30 Sept - 1 Oct The **International Search and Rescue (SAR) Competition** will be held in Halifax and HARC has been invited to operate a special events station to commemorate the occasion. Using a special call sign, we will contact Coast Guard Auxiliary stations and other amateurs. We expect to operate from The Canadian Coast Guard base in Dartmouth on Friday and from the Maritime Museum in Halifax on Saturday.

Final Comments: There you have a full agenda for fun filled HF operating over the summer and early fall. You can get further information about these events from Dick, Howard or me. Of course, watch for more details in upcoming issues of the *Reflector*.

73 de Scott, VE1QD

Stephanie & Pat's Boy with VE1NN's Toy

Do you have a radio-oriented story, question, answer, article, notice, picture or letter to the editor that you would like to share by having it published in the HARC Reflector? Get them to the HARC Reflector editor, Lynn Bowser, VE1ENT (e-mail ve1ent@rac.ca)



*If you have a lot of tension and you get a headache, do what it says on the aspirin bottle:
"TAKE TWO ASPIRIN" AND "KEEP AWAY FROM CHILDREN"!!!!*

*Early January, the Washington Post published a story "Wave of Destruction, Wave of Salvation" By Rama Lakshmi. The article tells of a **Dxpedition to Port Blair in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands**, (in the Bay of Bengal, 900 miles east of mainland India) and its emergency response after the tsunami.*

In early December, 2004, Bharathi Prasad, VU2RBI, and her team of 6 young ham radio operators set up a station and began operating. At 6:29 a.m., Dec. 26 Prasad felt the first tremors of the earthquake. She shouted, "Tremors!" into her microphone, alerting listening radio hams. Then the radio went dead. She ran out and alerted the hotel staff and other guests.

The tsunami knocked out commercial AC power and telephone service of the entire archipelago of 500 islands, leaving the capital virtually cut off from the rest of India.

Prasad set up a temporary station on the hotel lawn using a generator to get back on the air. She immediately discontinued her Dxpedition activities, operating in emergency communication mode from then on. She kept broadcasting information about the situation to anyone who could receive her signal; that there was no power, no water, no phone lines.

That Monday morning, she convinced the district commissioner of the value of her services as a ham operator. He then let her set up a radio station in his office and a second one on Car Nicobar, the island hit hardest.

For the next two day Prasad's call sign, VU2RBI, was the only link for thousands who were worried about friends and families in the islands. She also became the hub for relief communications among officials.

Offers of relief aid poured in from around the world through her radio, and she directed them to government officials. She also arranged for volunteer doctors to be sent from other Indian states.

Under India's strict communications laws, a ham cannot leave home with his or her radio without going through an elaborate bureaucratic process to obtain permission from various ministries. Prasad said that after her first expedition to Port Blair, she spent 17 years begging & badgering officials before she was allowed to return. Now she hopes her work in the aftermath of the tsunami will ease the path for other hams in India.

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 23, No. 43
October 29, 2004

DIGITAL BROADCAST TROUBLESOME TO SOME, EXPERIMENTAL OPPORTUNITY FOR OTHERS

A digital broadcast signal on 3995 kHz has prompted hams to inform ARRL that it's QRMing the top 10 kHz of 75 meters and asking what can be done about it. Not much, because the signal, from Deutsche Welle in Germany, is legal. Radio amateurs share that part of the band with broadcasters in Region 1 (which includes Europe). However, the international Radio Regulations do leave the door open to request that the station reduce power or change its antenna pattern.

"Digital shortwave will revolutionize cross-border broadcasts and will initiate a worldwide renaissance of radio," Deutsche Welle Director General Erik Bettermann said this month during a panel discussion at Munich Media Days. Deutsche Welle plans to gradually shut down its analog shortwave transmissions, he said, as DRM receivers became more available globally--something not anticipated until late 2005.

The station has been broadcasting for some time on the same frequency in conventional AM. In July it began testing using digital format--also referred to as "DRM," (Digital Radio Mondiale). The vagaries of propagation will be a big factor as to the amount of interference US hams experience at any given time.

Radio amateurs meanwhile have been experimenting with programs such as HamDream <<http://www.qslnet.de/member/hb9tlk/>>, a DRM program adapted for Amateur Radio use by HB9TLK. It enables digital voice & data transmissions using bandwidths of around 2.3 to 2.5 kHz.

And now for something really silly...

You can rearrange the letters of
"THE MORSE CODE"

To spell out

"HERE COME DOTS"

**Halifax Amateur Radio Club
Minutes of the General Monthly
Meeting of Wednesday,
February 16th, 2005**

President Bill (VE1MR) called the meeting to order at 1935 with 32 members in attendance.

Executive in attendance:

Bill Elliott (VE1MR) – President;
Dick Grantham (VE1AI) Past-president;
Fraser MacDougall (VE1WO) – First Vice-president;);
Second Vice-president – Darryl Perrin (VE1HUP); John Goodwin (VE1CDD) – Treasurer;
Howard Dickson (VE1DHD) – Secretary; Pat Kavanaugh (VE1PHK) – Station Manager;
Tom Caithness (VE1GTC) – Member-at-Large.

Silent Keys:

Harold Surette – VE1ALL;
Claude Wigle – VE1CEW; and
Earl Kelly – VE1EWK.

Guests: None.

Minutes of the monthly meeting of January 19, 2005:

MOTION - Approval of the minutes of the January monthly meeting as published in the February 2005 Reflector was moved by John (VE1HMH) and seconded by Jim (VE1SFX) – Motion carried.

Executive Reports:

Treasurer – John reported a January month-end bank balance of \$8,934.54. A copy of the monthly statement is appended to the hard file copy of these minutes.

MOTION – acceptance of the Treasurer's Report was moved by Dave (VE1EDA) and seconded by Jim (VE1JIM). Motion carried.

Secretary – Howard (VE1DHD) reported that Jason Humphrey, one of the Basic Ham Class members, had successfully passed his Basic Exam and was anxiously awaiting his call-sign allocation by Industry Canada.

Howard also showed the membership some draft versions of the new QSL card designs that he had developed for the three Club calls – VE1FQ; VE1FO & VE0MMA. He asked the

membership to evaluate the cards and make suggestions for change and to indicate their favourites.

President – Bill informed the membership that the Ham breakfast planned for Saturday February 19th had been moved back to the Steak and Stein on Young Street.

First Vice-president – Fraser (VE1WO) reported that Spud Roscoe (VE1BC) had been the successful bidder on the Yaesu FRG-7700 Receiver that the Club was selling.

Callbook Sales - Fraser also reported current Callbook sales at 928 sold.

Second Vice-president – Darryl (VE1HUP) informed the membership that Bill (VE1MR) was the Entertainment Speaker for the evening, and that he would be speaking on CTCSS (Continuous Tone Control Squelch System). Darryl also informed the group that upcoming Entertainment would include a talk on High Voltage Safety by an NS Power employee.

Past-president – Nothing to report

Station Manager - Pat (VE1PHK) reported that he has secured a surplus Army tent at an excellent price (donation) to be used for Field Day and any other Club activities.

Member-at-Large – Tom (VE1GTC) Nothing to report.

Committee Reports:

Membership – Tom (VE1GTC) reported that as of 16 February, there are 117 paid-up members for 2005 (85 Full / 30 Associate / 2 Life). Those who have not yet paid dues for 2005 (\$25) are encouraged to do so as soon as possible.

Search & Rescue – Dave (VE1AJP) had his voice back after a bout of laryngitis and reported that Ground S&R had taken possession of six new ICOM radios that are GPS capable. He also informed the membership that Halifax Ground S&R are beginning a fund-raising drive to support the purchase of a new

\$450,000 Logistics Vehicle for search & rescue.

EMO – Dave (VE1AJP) reported that the IWK had indicated a keen interest in participating in the upcoming Exercise Sandpiper this spring. Tom (VE1GTC) reported that the Halifax Water Commission; the 911 Centre and Metro Radio Group are all to be participants as well.

Flea Market 2005 – Bill (VE1MR) reminded the membership of the date change for the 2005 Down East Flea Market in Halifax. It will now take place at the Halifax Forum Annex on Saturday, June 11th, with a Friday evening reception at the Jolly Mug and a breakfast Saturday at the Steak and Stein. All are welcome. Tables are free to sellers, and admission for all is \$3.00.

Old Business:

Field Day 2005 – President Bill asked if anyone would volunteer to Chair the Field Day committee. There were none.

New Business: None

Reports & Announcements:

President Bill reported that John (VE1WS) was slowly recovering from a motor vehicle accident and that several Hams were going to assist with antenna repairs at his place.

SSTV Net – Jim (VE1SFX) informed the meeting of his disappointment at the lack of interest in SSTV. Pat (VE1PHK) informed the group that to assist with SSTV he had set up a digital repeater on 147.540 with a 1750 Hz tone required to open the repeater. The repeater will echo back any image sent to it.

ARISS – President Bill reported that there were four upcoming space station contacts with schools planned for February 28, March 7, 14 & 21. All contacts will be broadcast through the IRLP system from the VE1HNS (146.940) repeater in Halifax.

Halifax IRLP Node – President Bill


(Continued on page 7)

Minutes (Continued from page 6)

announced that the Halifax IRLP node on 146.940 will be down from February 18th for a week or so in order to install the new controller. This WILL NOT affect the operation of the repeater itself.

Whitehead Island DXpedition – Fred (VE1FA) reported that he and others will be mounting a DXpedition to Whitehead Island in the Bay of Fundy (just off Grand Manan Island) in July (30/31st) for the IOTA Weekend 2005. Interested parties should contact Fred directly.

Door Prize – was a high-speed drill set and was won by Scott (VE1QD)

50:50 Draw – the draw (\$15.00) was won by Pat (VE1PHK). 

Motion to adjourn by Lynn (VE1ENT)

Evening Speaker – Bill (VE1MR) gave an overview of CTCSS (Continuous Tone Control Squelch System) and tone applications in Amateur Radio.

Respectfully submitted by:
Howard Dickson – VE1DHD,
Secretary

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 23, No. 48 SCAMP ON-AIR TESTING COMMENCES

The Sound Card Amateur Message Protocol--or SCAMP--is not just a conference paper topic anymore. On-the-air testing of the digital communication protocol began in late November, and the first transcontinental communication using SCAMP occurred on Dec. 4. SCAMP is designed to eliminate the need for pricey external hardware for passing e-mail traffic on relatively narrow-bandwidth channels. Rick Muething, KN6KB, prepared a presentation on SCAMP for the ARRL-TAPR Digital Communications Conference in September.

"SCAMP is an example of what is now possible with sound card, computer and software technology using cooperative amateur efforts," he says. "SCAMP and similar programs like DIGTRX for image trans-

More on APRS by Rick VE1RGG, HARC APRS Coordinator

Equipment & Software Identification ("APT310")

All devices and software conforming to APRS standards has an approved identifier that is transmitted with each beacon. In most cases there is no need to include a description of the type of tracker or software you are using in your beacon text which duplicates this same information. Some typical APRS reports are shown (using my call sign for mobiles):

VE1RGG-9>APT310,VE1RGG*,WIDE3-2,qAR,VE1AIC-1:
/201554z4436.34N/06337.00W>354/000/A=000203/TinyTrak 3

VE1RGG-2>APU25N,VE1TPL*,WIDE,qAR,VE1AIC-1:
=4457.93N/06450.72W- {UIV32N}

VE1MTT>APNU18,VE1TPL*,WIDE2-1,qAR,VE9GFI-1:
!4454.98NU06342.96W#PHG5460/APRS MARCAN TPARC UIDIGI
BEAVERBANK

VE1RGG-9>APOT02,VE1TRO*,WIDE3-3,qAR,VE1AIC-1:
/201600z4521.30N/06317.93Wk218/000/A=000084 12.5V 12C

VE1RGG-9>APT202,WIDE3,qAR,VE1AIC-1:
!4442.16N/06341.65Wv343/053/A=000200/Tiny Trak II



In The Above Examples: "APT310" is an official designator which says I am using a Tiny Trak 3 so I don't need to include this same information in my beacon text (i.e. the portion at the end that says "Tiny Trak 3" can be excluded from my beacon text). "qAR," indicates that it was gated to the internet via VE1AIC-1 or VE9GFI-1.

PLEASE NOTE - WE DO NOT NEED ANY MORE IGATES IN THIS AREA!!! >>

Common Identifiers:

"APT310" - Tiny Trak 3

"APT202" - Tiny Trak 2

"APU25N" - UI-View 32-bit software is being used. May also end with {UIV32N}

"APNU18" - Uidigi

"APOT02" - Open Tracker

A detailed list of these standard identifiers is provided at:

<http://web.usna.navy.mil/~bruninga/aprs/tocalls.txt>

mission offer low-cost alternatives to dedicated or proprietary hardware."

As Muething explains, SCAMP is intended for transmitting messages--text with binary attachments--via 2-kHz bandwidth HF and VHF voice channels. The program is compatible with Winlink2000. SCAMP uses the Redundant Digital File Transfer (RDFT) transport layer, developed by Barry Sanderson, KB9VAK, with the addition of Automatic Repeat Request (ARQ)--the technique all "linked" modes use to ensure error-free transmission--and message layer protocols that Muething developed. He says SCAMP offers a

moderate-throughput, error-free protocol that works using conventional sound cards and modestly powered computers.

The RDFT utilities & documentation for the Windows and Linux operating systems have been released under the GNU General Public License (GPL).

Muething says a dozen dedicated testers began initial on-air testing on HF and VHF Nov. 27 using the alpha version of a Windows-based SCAMP client called Paclink SCD that he and Vic Poor, W5SMM, developed.

Primary testing was done on 40, 30 and 20 meters, and VHF testing was

(Continued on page 10)

From the Mail Bag



HELP

Jerry Proc VE3FAB is putting together another of his excellent histories on naval communications. This one will be on HMCS Churchill at Churchill, Manitoba. From this history will be a link describing the naval station at Padloping Island.

The navy had a small station at Padloping Island in 1953. Padloping Island is off Baffin Island just east of what was Frobisher Bay. There were a dozen naval ratings at this station. Five were radiomen and their main job was to pass weather reports to Frobisher Bay.

Brit, VE1FQ, handled a lot of phone patch traffic for them. Jerry would like to know the amateur radio call sign the navy used while at Padloping Island. The ham station would have been active late 1953 and 1954 with a possibility of part of 1955.

Does anyone know the whereabouts of **Brit's logs** for that period?

Does someone have an **old call book** that would give us that VE8 call sign?

Thanks, Spud VE1BC
spudroscoe@eastlink.ca

Software

Registration for UI-View32 & other software created by Roger Barker G4IDE has been made available for free to the HAM community. In return, his family requests that a donation be made to any cancer society.

Details are available at:
<http://www.ui-view.org/>

to quote the web site:

"Just before Roger G4IDE passed away, the registration fees for UI-View and WinPack were waived, but it is asked that you make a donation to your local or national cancer agency. Please ignore the registration instructions in the UI-View Help."

Rick, VE1RGG

From: Rick Gardiner
Sent: Wednesday, Feb. 23, 2005
Subject: Roger Barker G4IDE

Please offer our sincere condolences to Roger's family and thank them for sharing Roger's software with the HAM Radio community.

I have only recently been involved with APRS and I used the demo version of UI-View last summer during the MS Bike Tour (a major fundraising event for the Multiple Sclerosis Society). It helped considerably with monitoring the service vehicles used during the event. I was going to send an email to Roger last fall and thank him for his all his efforts in creating this software when I heard of his passing. He will be missed in our part of the world.

Rick Gardiner, VE1RGG
APRS Coordinator
On behalf of the Halifax Amateur
Radio Club, Halifax, Nova Scotia



From: Ken Collins
<g4fip@tiscali.co.uk>
Sent: Tuesday, March 01,
Subj: Condolences for the Barkers.

Hi Rick,
Thank you for your message of condolences over the passing of Roger, G4IDE. I had a scheduled visit across to see them this afternoon so I took a copy of your message across and gave it to them.

Although there have been many hundreds of tributes to Roger they were still very moved when they received your message.

They have asked me to thank you and all members of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club for your very kind thoughts at this time and they greatly appreciate your message.

Fortunately I live only 11 miles from them so without intruding too much I am trying to ensure things run as smoothly as possible for them.

Again, thanks to you all for your message.

73, Ken Collins - G4FIP

I was surprised last evening at the February meeting of HARC, that so few of the 32 members present were either unaware of or not yet on the weekly email distribution list for the **Canadian Amateur Radio Bulletin**. The Bulletin is NOT a RAC publication, although it does support RAC and all of Amateur Radio. The Bulletin is a weekly publication. The editor is Jim Taylor, VA3KU, in Toronto. It contains timely information on all aspects of Amateur Radio for both the HF DXer/Contester and the VHF operator. There are excellent links to other Amateur Radio sites as well.

You can go directly to the on-line Bulletin by clicking on
www.hfradio.net

If you would like a weekly email delivery of the Index from this week's Bulletin you can subscribe by contacting Jim as follows:

~~~~~

To subscribe to this bulletin and have it delivered to your e-mail box automatically every week, send an email to  
[hfradio@look.ca](mailto:hfradio@look.ca)

Just put your name and callsign (if you have one) in the body of the text.

~~~~~

I hope that you will visit
www.hfradio.net soon.

73, Howard - VE1DHD

Further to Rick's article about APRS last month he writes ...

"I forgot to add a note on SSIDs. I really don't have any worthwhile info. regarding the use of these. I think as far as regulations are concerned, SSID numbers are up to the operator. There may be some convention being used but it appears that most HAM operators in NA are using a variety of SSIDs but are picking a symbol relative to the situation they are in at the time (house, car, van, jogger, etc). I prefer not to invoke any convention with SSIDs."

Rick, VE1RGG

Working on Roofs -Part I

Re researched by

Terry Bigelow, VE1TRB

(From the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations)

Gents;

After much research regarding working on roofs, I have come up with the following information from the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations; In a nut shell, if you are going to have someone working within 2 meters of the edge of a flat roof, that is more than 3 meters high, you must have a fall protection plan in place. This is considered as the "control zone". This control zone may need adjusting, depending on the condition of the work surface.

You can employ a dedicated safety monitor if work is to be conducted in that zone (as outlined below), provided the worker is not required to work on the edge of the roof. If a safety monitor is to be used, that person will be dedicated to that job and that job alone. If a worker is required to work directly on the edge, a fall protection system must be employed so as to stop the employee from going over the edge, and if he does go over the edge he will be restrained from falling any more than one foot, so that he can recover from the fall himself.

Below is an extract from the COSH Regulations, hope this clears up any questions. Any further concerns can be found at the following web site:

<http://regulation.>

healthandsafetycentre.org/s/Part11.asp#SectionNumber:11.2

11.37 Width of the zone

- (1) The width of a control zone must be at least 2 m (6.5 ft).
- (2) Additional distance must be added to the minimum width of a control zone, with regard to whether
 - (a) the working surface is slippery or sloped,
 - (b) the work is carried out at an elevation relative to the unguarded edge, and
 - (c) the risk is increased by the use of equipment near the control zone.

11.38 Work outside the zone

If workers will at all times remain further from the unguarded edge than the width of the control zone (*at least 2 m*), no other fall protection system need be used.

11.39 Work near the zone

- (1) If a worker will be working within 2 m (6.5 ft) of the control zone, the line defining the control zone must be established by a raised warning line or other equally effective means at all times during such work.
- (2) A raised warning line marking the edge of a control zone must be
 - (a) a line of high visibility material, or a line flagged or clearly marked with high visibility materials at intervals not exceeding 2 m (6.5 ft), and
 - (b) rigged and maintained to be between 0.85 m & 1.15 m (34 in & 45 in) above the working surface.

11.40 Safety monitor for work in the zone

- (1) If permitted by section 11.2, a safety monitor system with a control zone may be used as the means of fall protection for workers in the control zone.
- (2) The safety monitor must ensure that the work activity in the control zone is performed in accordance with the fall protection plan and in a manner that minimizes the potential for a worker to fall.
- (3) A safety monitor must
 - (a) be experienced in the work overseen and trained in the role of safety monitor,
 - (b) be present at all times when a worker is in the control zone,
 - (c) have complete authority over the work as it relates to the prevention of falls,
 - (d) engage in no other duties while acting as the safety monitor,
 - (e) be located so as to have a clear view of the work,
 - (f) be able to have normal voice communication with the workers being protected, and
 - (g) be instantly distinguishable from other workers.

(4) Only workers directly required for the work at hand may be inside the control zone.

(5) A safety monitor may monitor a maximum of 8 workers.

(6) The fall protection plan for the workplace must specify the name of each safety monitor and contain a record of the monitor's training for this role.

Part II – Fall-Protection Systems

will appear in a later issue of the HARC Reflector -ed.

**Answer to puzzler on page 2**

What is the difference in signal levels between the two stations in dB?

Answer: There would be a difference of 16 dB between the signals.

Attention new Amateurs

Any new amateurs obtaining their call-signs please let Tom, VE1GTC, know by phone at 477 7081 or e-mail – ve1gtc@rac.ca

OK....so if the Jacksonville Jaguars are known as the "Jags" and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers are known as the "Bucs," what does that make the Tennessee Titans?

There are about 35 **nets** using the IRLP system that can be accessed on our repeater. Some are general nets, others special interest nets.

Here is a list of some interesting sounding nets:

SSTV Net, NW Elmer Net, Visually Challenged Net, VK8 Net, Ham Radio Newcomers Net, Hawaiian Net, Railham Net, Orange County Trivia Net, Swedish Net, Bozo Net???, as well as the Red Cross Net and various ARES regional nets. Complete information on those and other nets including times, days and reflector numbers can be found at

www.irlp.net.

Click on "IRLP Net Info" at left of the screen.

Rob VE1KS

NSARA CONTEST - March 13, 2005

HOURS: The contest will run for EIGHT hours in two four hour sessions.

Morning Session - 8:00AM local time until 12:00PM local time.

Afternoon Session - 2:00PM local time until 6:00PM local time.

OPERATING BAND: All contacts for contest credit will take place on the 80 meter band PHONE and CW sections.

OPERATORS: Single Transmitter but no restrictions on operators. SINGLE OP. or MULTI OP. permitted. FIELD DAY type portable operations to rare counties are encouraged, especially if BASIC ops. are involved.

SCORING: -One point per completed contact on PHONE

-Two points per completed contact on CW

The SAME station can be logged once on PHONE and once on CW.

MULTIPLIERS: The 18 Counties of Nova Scotia will count as multipliers. Any ham from anywhere can take part, but only Nova Scotia Counties will count as multipliers. Each county can only be counted once, even if worked on both modes.

EXCHANGE: The exchange will be:

CALL, SIGNAL REPORT, and COUNTY, with Nova Scotia stations,

Non Nova Scotia stations contacting each other will exchange only call and signal report.

LOGGING: The logs must clearly indicate whether the contact is PHONE or CW. The log must show: -STATION WORKED, TIME, SIGNAL REPORT MODE and COUNTY, (if the contact is with a NS Station).

CERTIFICATES: Anyone who makes 25 or more contacts in the contest (regardless of score), and submits a log, will receive a "Participation Certificate". Stations making contacts with all 18 NS counties will have "Clean Sweep" indicated on their certificates, and they will also qualify for the NSARA WORKED ALL NOVA SCOTIA COUNTIES Award without QSL Card submission.

SUBMIT LOGS: Contest entrants will have ONE MONTH to submit logs after the contest. In 2005 the closing date for logs is April 13/05 E-logs to velcel@rac.ca

COMMITTEE: The contest committee, composed of NSARA Directors, will make the final decision in all matters regarding this contest.

WINNER: The winner will receive a framed certificate, as well as having his/her photo on the NSARA web page etc.

SEND LOGS TO: Mr Tom Goldie, VE1BYO, Antigonish Amateur Radio Club, 12 Sylvan Valley Rd. Apt. 204 Antigonish NS B2G 2P6

**HOT CELLPHONE** from Rob VE1KS

Folks working in Ogden, Utah's Police Dispatch Center had an emergency of their own recently when the battery in an operator's cellphone caught fire inside her jacket pocket, burned its way out, then burned holes in the chair and carpet. The cellphone was relatively new and equipped with the manufacturer's battery. This incident is unlike other reports where cheap third-party batteries were blamed for fires and explosions. The Utah worker was shaken but not injured.

American Morse code which was developed by Morse and Vail, is the predecessor to the International Morse Code that radio amateurs use.

SCAMP on air testing (Continued from page 7)

carried out on 2-m. using both FM and SSB. Beta testing is set to crank up in February, Muething says.

The first successful transcontinental exchange of Amateur Radio e-mail messages using SCAMP took place December 4 on 20 meters between N6KZB in Temecula, California, and W3QA in West Chester, Pennsylvania. Each station ran 70 W.

Muething reports. "The throughput of SCAMP adjusts to the channel quality, reaching a current net maximum of about 4800 bytes per minute before compression gains."

Muething says SCAMP doesn't require anything more than a 1-GHz class Pentium or Celeron processor with a minimum of 128 MB of memory to reach full throughput. Lesser systems may be used at reduced throughput.

The complete SCAMP specification is available and will be released under the GPL as a blueprint for client developers to insure compatibility across different implementations. Muething says further protocol optimization continues to up system throughput and improve its robustness in poor HF multipath channels.

He'd also like to see some band plan restructuring to "open up spectrum for digital modes and encourage new experimentation and development like SCAMP." The ARRL has sought comment from the amateur community on draft proposals <<http://www.arrl.org/announce/bandwidth.html>> seeking to regulate subbands by emission bandwidth rather than by mode. At this point, the proposals remain a work in progress, and the ARRL has not petitioned the FCC for any changes.

Muething has more information on SCAMP. Contact him via e-mail <kn6kb@arrl.net>. Information on RDFT is available on the Web <<http://www.svs.net/wyman/examples/hdsstv/index.html>>.

The only substitute for good manners is fast reflexes.